

# CONCORD ~ May 2015

Prayer for the Month,

Lord God, our king of glory,  
you exalted your one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven.

We pray that you will not leave us your church unsupported,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us on earth,  
and raise us to that place where our Saviour has gone ahead.

Through him, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and in all eternity. Amen.

Based on the collect for the Sunday before Whitsun.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.

0161 **998 2615**

Dear Friends,

I was intrigued as I read the parish magazine for 1944 in preparation for the article on WW2 casualties in this issue to see the activities and concerns of my predecessor, Ronald Allen. There is a detailed article on church finances, and the fact that St. Wilfrid's was in the red is made clear. So too were Mr. Allen's fears that no-one would be prepared to serve as Rector after him unless he had private means. (He reckoned that the Rector's income, before tax and rates, would be about £300 per annum!). He also reports that there was a shortage of clergy ~ no new men were being trained because of war service, and many clergy were quite properly serving as forces chaplains. There are also reports of his visit to America, on a preaching and teaching mission, I think, but also to speak about the state of the church and nation after four years of war.

Nevertheless, when he moved to a new parish later in the year, a replacement, Victor Genders, was forthcoming, and was in post within about two months of Mr. Allen's departure. And when, a year later, the war had ended a good number of men came forward for ordained ministry. Some had felt the call before the war, and had to defer it. For others their experience during the war had clarified and crystallised God's call to them. (For the record, when I trained in the early 1970s, one of my colleagues was in this situation ~ he had felt called before the

war, but serious injury meant that he could not be accepted in 1945. But changed criteria, and his successful secular career, meant that by the late 1960s he could take early retirement, and move towards ordained ministry late in life. God moves in mysterious ways, as they say!)

I am not simply telling that story for historical interest, but to set a scene. I have talked in church services and other settings since at least the new year ~ school, the street in response to rumours, Civic Society, PCC, ... ~ about the fact that I am intending to retire some time this year (and so I am surprised when people still express surprise at the news). I cannot be more definite than "some time this year" because it depends partly on other people and other circumstances and events, so no-one need feel left out for not knowing a more definite date. I do not know myself.

What I will say is that I will give reasonable notice when we have decided. And I can also say, with regret, that my successor is unlikely to be in post as quickly as Victor Genders. In those days an appointment was made more or less on the say-so of the bishop. Now there is a process of consultation so that the parish has a great deal more say in the person specification and the job description, but there is also the question from the diocesan side, of what kind of a post will be on offer: while we have been talking for a number of years now about how a future Rector of Northenden will relate to other parishes or roles, it seems that their answer is still not clear. So the post may not be advertised, even, for several months after I leave, and when my successor is appointed he ~ or perhaps she ~ will almost certainly have an additional role in the area or the diocese.

More significantly, it will soon be Whitsun, the festival fifty days after Easter when we celebrate God's gift of his Spirit ~ his inspiring presence and encouraging support ~ to the church. St.Luke, of course, describes this in Acts chap.2 in the bible ~ though the story does not end there: whole book carries it on. Some of the events are very dramatic, as people find they can praise God in ways they never thought of before, and as many others find a new faith and meaning for their lives. These things still happen today. But note too how that chapter ends with a picture of matter of fact practical support, learning and worship.

And so now read on.

**Greg Forster**

*Magpie*

... has again been listening over the shoulder of some children as they wrote letters to God. Here they are, with original spelling and grammar;

Dear God,  
If you watch on Sunday I will show you my new shoes.

Mickey D.

Dear God,  
*If you let the dinasor not extinct we would not have a country.  
You did the right thing.*

Jonathan

... sends his congratulations to Florence Birtles, who has just had her second greetings card from the Queen. The first was for a 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, some years ago now. This one is for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, on March 15<sup>th</sup>. She speaks of herself as being very blessed, with caring daughters and many friends.

... came across a number of quirky Easter Eggs last month ~ one proclaiming the virtues of Darth Vader, and another the celebrity of Dr. Who. No wonder there were people at the Advertising Standards Agency last year who wanted a Christian company to make it clear that their eggs had information about the *Christian* Easter in the packet.

... is pleased to see that flats in the building at the corner of Palatine Rd and Church Rd. are now on offer. If you have £137,500 in your back pocket, one of them with its rather distinctive oval shape could be yours (or a bit more for the penthouses). One problem ~ at least when Magpie last heard information from the planners ~ is that the developer has not yet asked for clearance to occupy the place from the Building Inspectors, who must vouch that all conditions of their planning consent have been met. Another problem which Magpie has noticed ~ following the fire in the middle of last year, there are still broken windows and temporary plyboard panels on the glazed prow of the building. So watch this space still. But seriously, they have done a grand job in reducing the height, and it does seem less in your face, at least from the back.

Another question is what to call the place. For a time the Planners were talking about No 1 Church Rd., even though it

has no entrance on that side. Its number now, on the sales literature, appears to be 395 Palatine Rd., and it is called "The Point". And that after the developers assured Magpie three or more years ago that they did not want a name like "Northenden Point". Popular, informal alternatives have been The Green Dalek, The Sore Thumb, Mordor, Faulty Towers, or just "That Thing on the corner." But whatever it is called, hurry along to the estate agents with your deposit. Just think, if you live in it you can have the consolation of knowing that you won't have to look out of your windows at it, and the view from the upper storeys is superb. Magpie knows; he's seen it.

... congratulates the developers at "Cragg's Corner" for turning a rather drab 1960s brick box into something that looks bright and new and exciting, and for doing it in record time too!

... understands that the hall in Northenden Community School is back in action from the beginning of this term, following the fire at the end of last year. Congratulations to the school and their contractors, on getting things sorted out so quickly. And apparently for big occasions over the last three months or so the school has used St.Hilda's church, which has been a good experience for them and the church.

## **The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) South Manchester Meeting**

**There is a meeting for worship at 10.30am every Sunday.  
at the Friends' Meeting House, Wythenshawe Rd.,  
Children welcome.**

**\*\* Details from Lesley Thompson, 445 6778**

**The main hall and smaller room are available for hire;**

**~ contact: area Meeting office 834-5797**

**e-mail: office @ manchesterquakers . org . uk**

### **WHY?**

Readers of Concord will know that the Rector has written a number of booklets and short stories, which are available in Church ~ or direct from him. The latest, in the *Long time ago ...*

series, is simply called **Why?**, and follows a doctor as he looks into that question, put to him by a street urchin in Jerusalem at Passover 30AD. Why was a good man put to death? It is more of a story for adults than children, though it was prompted by an 8 year old from St.Wilfrid's school at Easter a couple of years ago.

X ... **marks the spot ~ or your vote.**

... and is again a reminder of the election on May 7<sup>th</sup>. I take no party stance, but do encourage people to vote, and to think about it in moral terms, and to pray about it. I hope that would go without saying, so apologies if you already think that way.

### **Need a Hall? ... Hire a Hall ?**

I sometimes hear complaints that there are no public halls in Northenden available for meetings, parties and other activities. We need to acquire a new public asset, it is said. Now, it is true that there are no village halls owned by the public, but then, how would the public pay for their running? We were told that the Library cost over £50,000 a year to run, not to mention major maintenance, though a lot of that was admittedly staff salaries.

But let's take stock, and look around us. For wedding and funeral receptions and the celebrations after a baptism there are the Cricket Club, or the Social Club, and St.Wilfrid's Church Hall also has facilities for such events (but no bar!). Children's parties take place there too, and, I believe, at the Cricket Club.

Business and public meetings, and band practices or drama rehearsals, can take place in either of our two primary school halls, or at the Methodist or St.Wilfrid's church halls, and at the Cricket club. Clubs and societies, and interest groups, can and do use any of these, or the Social club.

Youth groups have, in the past, used church halls and could do again, if the funds were available and staff and management structures in place, but that went out of the window four years ago or so when our council decided to cut the service. (But for those prepared to travel a bit, the Lifestyle Centre in Woodhouse Park still offers a range of activities, I believe.) Some children's groups still do use these local venues, and more could if the leaders were there.

And I haven't even mentioned the Hall at St.Hilda's, where (for example) an open over 60s club meets monthly (May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup> ...) on Tuesday afternoons.

So before we reinvent the wheel, let's look to see what facilities we already have, and use them. G.S.F.

### **School Places.**

In mid April parents across Northenden, and indeed across the country found out whether their five year olds would get the school place they wanted. I know that some have been disappointed, because I have already had phone calls. On an individual level, parents can, and should, appeal if they feel the offer they have received is unreasonable. On the broader front, we still need to campaign for more school places in Northenden (and Manchester generally). Given the way we sit in a bend in the Mersey, surrounded by M-ways, it is not good enough to say there are spare places in Northen Moor, Benchill or E. Didsbury.

## *Northenden Methodist Church*

Minister: The Revd. Tim Nicholls,  
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22  
0161 **945-6600**

### **Sunday Services.**

***Usually# 1st Sunday every month***

Family worship ~ Sunday breakfast club ~ MESSY CHURCH

All start off with activities with your child(ren) followed by a story, songs, and prayer based on the activities

For details contact Amy Carline, 07816 888 704

*# If the first Sunday clashes with a school holiday, check with Amy to see if different arrangements have been made, as they have for May ...*

**... so the next Messy Church will be on 10<sup>th</sup> May**

May. 3<sup>rd</sup> 11.00am The Rev. Tim Nicholls, Holy Communion  
6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodists

10<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Messy Church  
11.00am Mrs. Olivia Tu'ihalamaka

17<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Mr. Troy Donahue  
6.30pm District Event at Macclesfield Methodist Church.

24<sup>th</sup> **Pentecost / Whitsun**  
11.00am Mrs. Mary Langton  
6.30pm The Rev. Tim Nicholls, Taizé service

31<sup>st</sup> 11.00am The Rev. Tim Nicholls

June 7<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Messy Church  
11.00am Morning Worship (details not yet published)  
6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's

14<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Morning Worship.

### **Community Lunches**

Wed. May 13<sup>th</sup> 12.00 noon – 1.30pm

Next lunch; Wed. June 10<sup>th</sup> (To be confirmed)

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### **Northenden Players Theatre Club**

The May play runs from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

*St. Wilfrid's Church,  
Northenden.*

*Ford Lane, M22 4WE*

Rector ~ the Revd. Greg Forster,  
Northenden Rectory, Ford La., M 22 4NQ

Tel. 0161 998 – 2615

Email; gsf @ stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

Website: www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

*And follow us ~ like us, befriend us even ~ on Facebook –  
www. facebook. com/ pages/ St-Wilfrids-Northenden/ 208920952481082*

### *SerVICES:*

On Sundays there will be a communion service at 8.00am.

On Thursdays also, at 10am, there is a communion service.

**Sunday Scramblers** ~ for 3½ to age 9 upwards ~ meet, for the moment, in the Church Hall unless there is a Family Service, between 10.30 and 11.30am on Sundays

**The Nigerian Anglican "Restoration" Congregation** meets weekly at **12.30pm** for about 1½ hours in St. Wilfrid's Church. The service includes traditional and modern music. There are also activities for children.

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Family Communion  
6.30pm United Service at Methodist Church.
- 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion (V.E. Day remembrance)  
6.30pm Evening Worship
- 14<sup>th</sup> **Ascension Day** Deanery Communion @ St. Chad's.
- 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Worship
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Pentecost / Whitsun.**  
10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Worship
- 31<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Morning Prayer  
6.30pm Holy Communion
- June 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Family Communion  
6.30pm United Evening Worship @ St. Wilfrid's
- 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Worship

*Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...*

**On Sundays from 2.30 till 5pm the church is open for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.**

To visit at other times, please contact the Rector.

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening! 

There will be a PCC meeting on Thurs. 30<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm in Hall.

Note the Archdeacon's visitations, on 5<sup>th</sup> May at Emmanuel, Didsbury, or 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Matthew's Stretford.

Fri. 8<sup>th</sup>. 2.55 for 3.00pm Northenden War Memorial, Palatine Rd., a ceremony to commemorate the end of the War in Europe, 1945

May's **Women's Group** will be a week later than normal, to avoid the Bank Holiday ~ Mon. 11<sup>th</sup>, at **7.30pm**; with Della

Holden, who will be talking about the impact of Ebola on her home country of Liberia.

**Ascension Day**, Th.14<sup>th</sup> May.

7.30pm Deanery Communion Service. @ **St.Chad's Ladybarn**

**Christian Aid Week**, 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Thu. May 21<sup>st</sup> School Whitsun service at about 9.15am.

Coffee Morning Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am Church Hall

Mon. **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Women's Group ~ details to be arranged.

Thurs. June 11<sup>th</sup>. Bishop David will be visiting the area, and the Synod Meeting that he will be leading at Emmanuel, Didsbury, at 7.30pm will be open to non-members of synod.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> **Summer Fair** 11.00am – 1.00pm Church Hall.

And note that there will be Church **Open Days** on June **20<sup>th</sup>** & **21<sup>st</sup>** ~ details of times &c. to follow.

Registers ...



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## In Memoriam.

Donald Mackenzie (75), Joan Swainson (Coppice Dr.) 81

## Married ... in the Parish Church;

On 10<sup>th</sup> April: Kimberley Hayden to James Clewes

## Annual Meeting ~ Finance

... took place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April ~ but since we go to press long before that date, I cannot report on elections. What I can say is something about church finances. Once again they are not comfortable, though slightly better than last year. We had an overall income in 2014 of £46.8K, but spent nearly £51K, giving a shortfall of £4,138. That is better than last year, but the savings are largely due to the fact that cleaning is now being done as a gift, and for part of the year we had no organist in post. Full accounts are available in church and on request.

Clearly we cannot go on drawing on dwindling reserves indefinitely, and I know that some of our regular income will be

reduced this year (2015 – 16). We are grateful for the efforts put into fundraising by a number of members of the church, and would encourage more to join in with this. More significantly, I would encourage Church of England readers of the magazine to commit themselves to regular support of their church through our planned giving scheme. Ask me, or Sumi Fernandez. GSF.

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## Archdeacon's Visitation ...

The Archdeacon of Manchester is "visiting" this area on 5<sup>th</sup>. This is actually a formal event, at which church officers are sworn in for the coming year, and churchwardens, sidesmen and sideswomen, and church council members are expected to attend, with clergy. The events combine the formal business with a church service, and take place at 7.30pm. It is at Emmanuel Church, Didsbury,

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*We will remember them ...*

This month also sees the seventieth anniversary of VE day, and I include a short piece remembering those buried or commemorated in our churchyard who served or died in that war. It will not be as detailed as the series I ran last year for the 1914-19 conflict.

One name which I investigated last year was Sgt.A.W.Kilpin, remembered on a now lost (wooden?) memorial on grave E108. It was partly illegible even when Cheshire family history society recorded it in 1987, and simply gave a date of death as 7<sup>th</sup> Feb., in B.L.A. But where was B.L.A.? And 7<sup>th</sup> Feb in which year? I made enquiries of various people; some distant colony? a district in Belgium? In the end the Commonwealth War Graves Commission came up trumps. B.L.A. stands for British Liberation Army, and Sgt. Albert Kilpin died in the liberation of Holland on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1945 and is buried at Jonkerbos. He served with the Royal Artillery, in an anti-aircraft unit I think.

I also mentioned Bill Lovesey last year. His father had died in France in 1918. He was in the Royal Navy, and his ship was sunk in the Java Sea in (I think) 1943. He was taken prisoner, but died in January 1945 in a POW camp. (F3, by the main steps)

I met David Bye when he moved into Boat Lane Court with his wife as one of the first residents. He was partly crippled, with a leg injury, and his jaw was distorted. I heard part of his story, mostly from his wife at his funeral. He had served in North Africa, as a company commander, where his company had been partly instrumental in breaking through the German lines in Tunisia. I'm not sure whether he was formally Mentioned In Dispatches, but "Bye's Company" was mentioned with credit in the official history of the battle. It was that action which cost him his leg and jaw. He was a guinea pig in the reconstructive surgery that was being developed at the time, and certainly did not let the injury hold him back in civilian life; as an advertising copy writer his other claim to fame was "Go to work on an egg." His ashes are interred near the tower.

As in the Great War, not all the casualties were "army", and not all died in Northern Europe. Harry Lamb was an RAF Flying Officer, and his mother's headstone records her loving memories of him, killed over Yugoslavia in July 1944. Perhaps not surprisingly the War Grave Commission have no record of his grave. Though there are some memorial notes in the parish magazine for these years, F.O. Lamb is not mentioned.

Another airman is also recorded ~ Warrant Officer George D. Clark. He was killed in action in August 1941, and this time there is a tribute to him in the parish magazine ~ but it simply says that he was engaged in very dangerous service. What that was is not stated; perhaps it was secret. He was an air gunner. What I did not realise until preparing this piece was that he is interred here. The inscription is ambiguous and had seemed to suggest he was buried down south, near the front line airfields ~ but that note must refer to his mother. (C232) His father was, I think, the temporary editor of the magazine later in the war.

There are a sad number of other war deaths recorded in the magazine, or on gravestones, and others from Northenden served and returned. We have a parchment memorial book, which will be on display in early May, and also a file of all who served. Here I will only mention two others. One may be a surprise; the other is a well known part of Northenden's history.

Muriel Fenton is buried here. She actually died in 1948, aged 26, but the headstone records that it was as a result of war

service. Women could be service casualties too. She was a private in the A.T.S. ~ is that auxiliary transport service? Her burial is recorded in the magazine with no further comment.

The death of Ordinary Seaman Christopher Tatton is recorded on a monument in our Tatton Chapel inside the church. (Incidentally, the only military monument within the church, which is unlike what one finds in most old parish churches.) He served on H.M.S. Prince of Wales, which was ordered out to counter the threat of a Japanese invasion of Malaya, and sank under the weight of aerial bombing on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1941. He was 19. It is sobering to remember that he, as last of the Tattons in the male line, died as an ordinary seaman, while in the vault below are ancestors who served as MPs, or were grandsons of peers. Soon after his death his parents decided to dedicate the chapel for the young people of Northenden.

There will be an act of remembrance at the war memorial on 8<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00pm., the hour when Churchill broadcast to announce the end of European hostilities.

**And if you haven't already noticed ...**

There is an item in Crux, the diocesan insert to Concord, (accessible on the Diocesan website ~ < [www . Manchester . Anglican . org](http://www.Manchester.Anglican.org) > ) which features the Nigerian Anglican congregation which is part of the St.Wilfrid's family, along with other groups from minority communities meeting around the diocese. Read it, or join them!